

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-4 (Cancelled).

5. (currently amended) A tourniquet article comprising:

A substantially rigid base;

a handle; and

a strap in communication with said handle, the strap being engaged with said base at a first point upstream from said handle and fixedly attached to said base at a second point downstream from said handle such that said handle is maintained in a position relative to said substantially rigid base to reduce binding of said base when said handle is twisted,

wherein said handle is a rod including notches disposed at first and second end portions.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (previously presented) The tourniquet article of claim 5 wherein said strap has a width of between about 1 inch and about 2.5 inches and said handle includes an aperture that is slightly wider than said strap.

8. (previously presented) The tourniquet article of claim 7 wherein said strap passes through the aperture.
9. (previously presented) The tourniquet article of claim 5 wherein said base is substantially rigid and comprises a layered composite including a lower layer comprised of one of a non-skid fabric, a non-slip fabric and a looped end Velcro.
10. (previously presented) The tourniquet article of claim 9 wherein the layered composite includes an intermediate layer affixed to said lower layer and an upper layer affixed to said intermediate layer, said upper layer comprising a substantially rigid material.
11. (previously presented) The tourniquet article of claim 10 wherein the upper layer comprises a plastic material.
12. (previously presented) The tourniquet article of claim 10 wherein the upper layer comprises nylon scuba webbing.
13. (previously presented) The tourniquet article of claim 10 wherein the intermediate layer comprises a polypropylene webbing.
14. (cancelled)

15. (previously presented) The tourniquet article of claim 5 further comprising a handle lock attached to said base and positioned to receive an end of said handle.

16. (cancelled)

17. (previously presented) The tourniquet article of claim 15 wherein the handle lock includes a ring movably attached to said base.

18-20 (cancelled)

21. (previously presented) The tourniquet article of claim 5 further comprising buckle connected to said substantially rigid base, said buckle being adapted to engage said strap to secure said tourniquet in a deployed arrangement, said buckle being tapped to accept a screw to secure said strap to said base.

22. (cancelled)

23. (currently amended) A tourniquet article comprising:

an elongated handle;

a substantially rigid base;

a strap disposed contiguous to said base and in communication with said handle;  
and

a structural member having first and second sides, said structural member being  
fixedly attached to said base at least at first and second points along each of the first  
and second sides, said strap being sandwiched between at least portion of said  
structural member and said base to minimize twisting of said strap.

24. (previously presented) The tourniquet article of claim 23 wherein said structural  
member includes a cap.

25. (currently amended) A tourniquet article comprising:

an elongated handle;

a substantially rigid base underlying said elongated handle;

a strap configured to be tightened about an injured limb, said strap being  
engaged with said handle and being engaged with said substantially rigid base at i) a  
first point upstream from said handle and ii) at a second point downstream from said  
handle such that said substantially rigid base is maintained in underlying relationship to  
said handle thereby reducing binding of said substantially rigid base when said handle  
is twisted; and

a buckle connected to and disposed proximate and end portion of said  
substantially rigid base, said buckle being adapted to engage said strap to secure said  
tourniquet in a deployed arrangement.

26. (previously presented) The tourniquet article of claim 5 wherein said handle includes an aperture disposed in the center thereof and said strap is threaded through said aperture.

27. (previously presented) The tourniquet article of claim 5 wherein said base includes means for holding said tourniquet article in place to facilitate user application of said tourniquet article with one hand.

28. (previously presented) The tourniquet article of claim 23 where said strap includes a free end and an end portion attached to said base.

29. (previously presented) The tourniquet article of claim 23 wherein said structural member, said strap and said base form a layered assembly.

30. (previously presented) The tourniquet article of claim 25 wherein said strap is planar and further comprising means for maintaining said strap flat against said base.

31. (new) The tourniquet article of claim 23 wherein said strap is fixedly attached to said base at an attachment point.